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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Eiki MATSUO) Re: Information Disclosure
) Statement
Serial No.: 10/826,479) Group: 2873
)
Filed: April 16, 2004) Examiner: Jessica T. Stultz
)
For: "IMAGING OPTICAL SYSTEM") Our Ref: B-4460PCTDIV3
) 621784-1
)
) Date: December 20, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicant's duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the next Office Action on the merits. Copies of the foreign patent documents and the non-patent publications listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience. Copies of the U.S. patent documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are not enclosed, pursuant to Deputy Commissioner Stephen G. Kunin's Pre OG Notice dated July 11, 2003.

It should be noted that the above-identified application may be related by subject matter to the following U.S. Application(s): 10/031,026, filed January 14, 2002 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,771,427 B1); 10/729,320, filed on December 5, 2003 (published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0114256 A1); and 10/729,437, filed on December 5, 2003 (published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0114255 A1). Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a) and M.P.E.P. 2004, paragraph 9, the applicant brings these co-pending applications to the attention of the Examiner. The Examiner should consider this information during the prosecution of the above-identified application. However,

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citation of these applications does not constitute an admission that the claims of the present application are substantially similar or similar to those of the applications listed above.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

This IDS is being submitted after receiving an Office Action on the merits, but before receiving a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, and is accompanied by a check for \$180, which is the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Thus, this IDS should be fully considered on the merits, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).


This paper is not being filed as a response to the Office Action issued August 6, 2004. A response to that Office Action has been made with a separate filing.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.) Also, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute a response to the pending Office Action, mailed August 6, 2004.

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The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on December 20, 2004 by Shana Morda.



Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of Non-U.S. Patent documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)
Check for \$180.00

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Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	ATTY DOCKET NO. B-4460PCTDIV3 621784-1	U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/826,479
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANT(S) Eiki MATSUO	
	FILING DATE April 16, 2004	GROUP 2873

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,570,140	10/1996	Toide et al.	348	744	
	5,986,806	11/1999	Sugawara	359	557	
	6,639,734 B2	10/2003	Omura	359	730	
	6,771,427 B1	8/2004	Matsuo	359	649	
	2004/0114256 A1	6/2004	Matsuo	359	754	
	2004/0114255 A1	6/2004	Matsuo	359	728	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.